

Summer
2005

Heritage Lessons



Bringing you the People and Places of Heritage Education

New Orleans Heritage for Kids

By: Melissa Cambre
Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans

The Preservation Resource Center is proud to announce the return of the Heritage Education Field Trip! The object of the field trip is to provoke thought of urban preservation and restoration. All students ages 11 and up are welcome to participate in this structured educational program that teaches children the basics in architecture, historic preservation, and the history of New Orleans great neighborhoods.

The students begin at the PRC in the historic Warehouse District where they learn concepts such as healthy gentrification, adaptive reuse and how New Orleans has developed throughout the years. The students then view a 30 minute interactive slide show on the history, architecture and cultures of our unique city. We expose the students to various New Orleans neighborhoods, starting with the French Quarter. Students learn the locations and features of common New Orleans house types such as the Shotgun single, Creole cottage and American townhouse. The students are also introduced to formerly blighted properties that are now renovated. The slide show features many before and after pictures of buildings the PRC has saved!

After the slide show at the PRC, the students then head to the French Quarter where they



Students enjoy lunch at Jackson Square, a historical site in New Orleans.

enjoy their bag lunch in Jackson Square. Students take a guided walking tour which covers our distinctive architecture, the Pontalba Apartments, Jackson Square, and the St. Louis Cathedral. The students get to display their new architectural knowledge when quizzed on the features of buildings in the French Quarter.

After the walking tour and upon the pre-arrangement of the teacher, the students will be able to tour one of the Louisiana State Museum Sites for no added charge.

Architecture 101 and the

Neighborhoods of New Orleans meets Louisiana State Standards in Civics, U.S. History, Louisiana History, Economics and Visual Arts for grades 4-12. All field trips are available Tuesday through-Friday, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00p.m. (The excursion varies in length according to options taken) Admissions: \$2 per student and Chaperones free. Title 1 schools are admitted free of charge. Outreach visits to schools are available upon request. For more information or reservations, contact 504-636-3065 or mcambre@prcno.org.

Heritage Education hosts Student Tours at the Historic American Cemetery in Natchitoches, La.

This summer Heritage Education hosted several groups of students for presentations and tours at the Historic American Cemetery in Natchitoches, La. Students from the Natchitoches Parish Library's Teen Reading Program, NSU Elementary Lab School, the Natchitoches Education Center, Cane River Children Services and a group of students from Marshall, TX. were all given a brief presentation on the significance and history of cemeteries at the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training. The group then walked down to the American Cemetery for a scavenger hunt. At the cemetery the participants were given a list of over 30 items to locate in the cemetery. The students not only learned about the importance of the cemeteries history and monuments, but they also established a new found interest and respect for cemeteries. For more information, call Kim Bowen.

Written by: Brittany Jordan, Intern



Students from NSU Elementary School Natchitoches, LA

Teacher Q&A: Bringing Lessons to Life

Teachers all over the state are bringing lessons to life for their students. Penny Warner from Choudrant High School and Jeri Chapman from Gueydan High School are both 2004-2005 grant recipients. Warner's students are taking photographs of various historical places in the community; interviewing people in the area and then writing essays on the people and places. Chapman's students are learning about global positioning by using GPS units and are also working on answering questions on local historical places they learned about through hands-on activities. Both teachers tell Heritage Education about the impact their projects had on their students.

Why did you want to participate in the Heritage Education program?

PW: It offered me the opportunity to fund a learning experience that our students would enjoy. The Heritage Education program focus on historical locations was a good match for the needs of our students academically.

JC: I wanted to participate in the Heritage Education Program to provide my students with the opportunity to examine their community's history and their "place" in the scheme of things.

What do you feel the students will



get out of the experiences? What are the students saying about the experiences?

PW: The students really enjoyed learning about their parish. I heard them say, "This is fun!" The parents are interested to learn about the project. Also, our geocache box at our local Chamber of Commerce has had four visitors since we placed it there. One visitor over the Christmas holiday said, "I learned things about Lincoln Parish I did not know."

JC: We have just begun our project. The students are enthusiastic and marvel at some of the information we've found.

What in your background led you to pursue this project?

PW: I have a desire to intrigue students and compel them to get excited about learning. I have been a lifelong learner myself and enjoy it very much.

JC: I became interested in pursuing this for many reasons. First, I am from the area, and my own family tree is quite interesting. Secondly, I wrote and produced the Centennial Play for our Centennial Celebration in 1999. While I was doing research for the play, I realized how important this information was for everyone and that it should be preserved and kept.

How many people do you think your project has reached?

PW: At least 10 classes of students with an average attendance of 15 in each have been reached at our school. Four people from across the nation have traveled through Ruston and found our geocache and have left a note about the experience. Parents of my students at Choudrant High School have also realized that their children are involved in some interesting and new types of learning.

JC: It will be available to the entire parish, and I think it will be a hot link on the Vermillion Parish web site. This means it could reach up to 5-10,000 people.

Both teachers are planning to continue their projects.

Summer Workshop Focused on Historic Churches

For the past four years, Heritage Education has sponsored a series of summer workshops for educators. These workshops place teachers in charge of planning lessons that are curriculum-based as well as place-based, and cross multiple subject areas. Teachers are introduced to the program, attend presentations, take field trips, and explore how heritage education meets their specific needs.

"This year, we focused our workshops on the use of historic churches in helping students discover their cultural heritage" say Heritage Education assistant program manager Kim Bowen.

Staff from Northwestern State University of Louisiana's College of Educators will

aid in the development and delivery of these workshops, ensuring development hours for teachers.

Partnering with the Louisiana Main Street Programs, workshops were held at St. John's Episcopal Church in Minden on June 25th, St. Bernard's Catholic Church in Breau Bridge on July 9th, and at St. Francis de Sales Cathedral in Houma on July 23rd. Each session offers:

- A day of intense activities
- Information on addressing Math, Language Arts, Science, and Social Science content standards.
- A field trip through historic churches.
- An information packet, resources, and supplies.
- Eight professional development hours.

For more information or if you are interested in having a workshop in your area, please contact Kim Bowen at kim_bowen@contractor.nps.gov or call 318-356-7444 ext. 246



Breau Bridge Workshop Participants

Heritage Education Gives Away a Total of \$100,000 to 36 Teachers Across the State

Heritage Education held their fourth annual Mini Grant Award Ceremony in Baton Rouge. Education professionals from throughout Louisiana came to recognize 36 teachers with exceptional ideas for incorporating heritage education in their classrooms.

The ceremony was held at the Claiborne Conference Center near the state capital in Baton Rouge. Heritage Education gave away a total of \$100,000 to 36 Louisiana teachers. The maximum funding available to teachers is \$2,500 per teacher per grant.

Tia Trahan, an elementary school teacher at Katharine Drexel Elementary in Lafayette will have her students visit and photograph different landmarks in Louisiana then create a class book and presentation of their findings. Students



Misty Bickham, 2005-06 grant recipient and Nancy Hawkins, La. Division of Archeology

will investigate each site looking for the geometric shapes each structure exhibits in relation to the geometric shapes they have studied as well as learn about the different lifestyles of the people of Louisiana from the past to the present.

Joyce Cambas, and the first grade students from Mandeville Elementary will create a PowerPoint presentation of the New Orleans

Garden District to use as a tool for students to identify the different architectural elements unique to historic homes in the New Orleans. Students will then submit plans for a Louisiana style school's snack shop renovation. Designed drawings will be shown to contractors to transform the current snack shop into a New Orleans style home.

Kathleen DesHotel, from Northshore High School in Slidell, will have her students create a 15-30 minute video documentary of the history of various buildings, neighborhoods, churches, city hall, police station and homes of Olde Towne, where the city of Slidell originated. The video documentary will be submitted for parish wide broadcast.

Written by: Brittany Jordan, Intern

Weblinks

Partners for Sacred Places

www.sacredplaces.org

An organization devoted to helping congregations sustain and use older historic sacred places. This site lists the top ten sacred places at risk.

Dixon Studio of Church Architecture and Interior

<http://www.churcharchitecture.net>

A website with church architecture resources such as books, news articles, and event listings.

Louisiana Historical and Church History

<http://bayougenealogy.com/lalink.html>

The site has information about Catholic Dioceses in Louisiana. Also, contains pictures and a brief history of some Louisiana churches.

The Epitaph Browser

<http://www.alsirat.com/epitaphs/index.html>

This site contains some epitaphs of famous people.



Joyce Cambust and Tammi Dyer 2005-06 grant recipients.

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